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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY USSR

SUBJECT Stalin Tractor Plant, Kharkov/Wool Factory, Tbilisi/  
ZIS Factory, Moscow

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25X1 Stalin Tractor Plant, Kharkov

1. [ ] this plant [ ] is the only tractor works  
in Kharkov and the second tractor plant to be built in the USSR,  
having been built in 1931 during the course of the first five-year  
plan. The first tractor works was built in Stalingrad. [ ]

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[ ] the plant was bombed in 1941 and had to  
be evacuated to Siberia. The rebuilding was begun in August 1943.  
[ ] no evidences of remaining bomb damage. Two kinds of  
tractors are produced here: (a) a 54 hp tractor with 38 hp  
additional power potential which [ ] was part of the same  
engine and which would not be used for driving the machine, but rather  
for any additional equipment attached; (b) a smaller tractor with  
no additional rear power. The tractors are transferred to the  
Ministry of Agriculture, after which the plant is no longer  
responsible for them. The Associate Director stated that in 1953  
the plant produced 18 thousand tractors (no breakdown between  
categories was given) and this represented 108% of their quota.  
The plant seemed rather orderly and production seemed to be going  
at a rapid rate. The parts of the factory [ ] seemed similar  
to assembly plants in the US, although not as modern. The plant  
probably employs about 13 thousand workers.

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2. [redacted] the workers live close to the plant in special housing. Sixty percent of the workers are under 25 years of age, with none under the age of 17. In 1953 40-45% of the workers studied at some kind of school in their free time during the evenings, either at the Middle Technical School or a branch of the Kharkov Polytechnic Institute. There were no tuition charges for the workers. The plant has a stadium and football and volleyball teams. Five thousand workers participated in athletic activities in 1953. For children of factory workers there are eight kindergartens, and [redacted] had 160-180 children with six or seven nurses to take care of them. [redacted]

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Wool Factory, Tbilisi

3. This plant was established in 1929 and was said to be the first wool factory in Georgia. [redacted] the plant's Director, a man about 54 years of age [redacted]

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[redacted] The Director had been at the plant since 1929. [redacted] the plant has three thousand workers of whom 70-80% are women. The average worker receives 950 - 1000 rubles per month. A beginning engineer receives 1500 - 2000 rubles per month. The plant produces wool cloth from raw wool. The cloth appears to be for civilian clothing, mainly for men's and women's suits. The material is fairly light weight and of varying degrees of quality. Some looked good and some seemed pretty rough. Much of the material is dark blue, and we saw none that was khaki. There are at least one hundred looms and they all were straight weave looms. There is usually one person assigned to a loom. All of the machinery was purchased in the UK, and most of it is the original equipment with which the plant started in 1929. They are currently increasing the size of the plant. [redacted]

4. The workers' flats are connected with the plant and rents equal approximately 3-5% of wages for factory workers. Rent is charged on the basis of approximately 90 kopeks per square meter of floor space per month. (At the tractor plant in Kharkov rent was at the rate of 8% kopeks per square meter per month.) Workers' flats are usually quite small. [redacted]

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[redacted] One of the two-room flats had three occupants and the four-room one we saw had six tenants. Two of the apartments were extremely plainly furnished. Frequently mother, father and at least one child shared the bedroom. [redacted] each apartment had a kitchen of its own, but [redacted] the kitchen is not actually in the apartment and that to get to it you must go out a back door of the flat. Each apartment had a bathroom with plumbing, and there was electricity. At three of the flats we were served vodka and at the fourth we were given champagne. The factory Director, [redacted] got to feeling quite gay as a result; the Director said that this was the first time he had had a drink on the job. [redacted]

ZIS Factory, Moscow

5. The ZIS Factory (Factory of Stalin) employs ten thousand workers of whom 30-33% are women. The plant works on two shifts per day and produces: (a) four-ton trucks, (b) bicycles, (c) refrigerators, (d) buses, (e) ZIS limousines and (f) custom-made cars such as ambulances. [redacted] the trucks were produced at the rate of one every four minutes; 1200 bicycles were produced per day and 100-105 refrigerators were turned out per day. Bicycles sell for 580 rubles and refrigerators (6 1/2 cubic feet) sell for 2000 rubles.

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[REDACTED]

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25X1 Bicycle and refrigerator production began after World War II. The  
 25X1 plant equipment seemed fairly modern; some of it was obtained during  
 25X1 and after the war. [REDACTED] some US equipment in the plant foundry  
 25X1 (heavy stamping machines to stamp red-hot metal). The plant  
 25X1 manufactures all parts with the exception of rubber, glass, cloth  
 25X1 and electrical items. They are presently replacing some of the  
 25X1 machinery with machinery made at the plant, so now, in addition  
 25X1 to making products, they are able to make the machinery with which  
 25X1 to make these products. The bicycle assembly plant is quite a  
 25X1 small operation. [REDACTED]

6. A technical school is attached to the plant and it concentrates on  
 courses in machine building and automotive mechanics. The average  
 salary for workers is 900-1000 rubles per month. A flat at the  
 factory costs 75-80 rubles per month for 37-45 square meters of space.  
 At this factory not all of the workers live near the plant. There  
 are two square blocks of workers' housing, but this is not adequate  
 for all the employees, so many of them live in various parts of  
 Moscow. The factory has a daily newspaper put out by the workers.  
 There is a palace of culture about 6-8 blocks from the plant and it  
 is used by the ZIS workers. [REDACTED] in  
 1952 ZIS had the all-USSR championship water polo team.

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[REDACTED]

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